



Double-Check Before You Cut Trees & Vegetation

Informational Meetings

Two presentation times are available on May 30th:

- 12:00 PM Wednesday, May 30th, 2012

or

- 5:30 PM Wednesday, May 30th, 2012

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Landscape contractors, gardeners, and property owners are encouraged to attend one of the information meetings.

The City of Santa Barbara has adopted tree preservation and landscape maintenance ordinance provisions, which contain new requirements to protect trees and landscaping from removal or to control excessive pruning. In 2009, the City Council enacted new fines for illegal tree or vegetation removal, which can range up to \$5,000 based on type of violation(s).

Be informed, come to one of the information meetings and learn:

- ✓ When it is most important to double-check before you cut, prune or remove vegetation or trees
- ✓ What constitutes “excessive pruning” subject to fines
- ✓ How to get fast answers regarding your property’s pruning, alteration and removal regulations
- ✓ How to apply for a tree or vegetation removal permit

Double-Check Before You Cut. In particular, to avoid fines, property owners are encouraged to check with city staff prior to removing or pruning any of the following types of vegetation:

- Trees in the right of way, including parkways
- Trees in yards fronting a public or private street (front setback)
- Vegetation in the El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District or other historic district or on an historic property
- Vegetation on steep slopes, within 50 feet of creeks, or anywhere that involves native biological habitat
- Historic or specimen trees
- Vegetation on or near coastal bluffs
- Landscaping for multi-family or commercial development which was approved as part of a plan, including in parking lots
- A specific tree or specific landscape feature of a single-family development which was specifically conditioned to remain as part of an approval

In some cases, if a landscape alteration is determined to be a “substantially similar replacement”, as defined in the City’s guidelines, no review or permit is necessary. However, property owners are encouraged to contact Planning Staff at 630 Garden Street to ensure their project qualifies for exemption prior to proceeding with vegetation removal for the above types of vegetation.

For more information, go to: www.santabarbaraca.gov/Landscaping or call Heather Baker, AICP Project Planner at 805-564-5470.